

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5305

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PA

SUBJECT: RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY (PLR) VICE PRESIDENT ARRESTED

REF: ASUNCION A-49, JUNE 6, 1975

1. THE GOP HAS STEPPED UP ITS OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE
OPPOSITION RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY (SEE REF) BY ARRESTING
DR. MIGUEL ANGEL MARTINEZ YARYES, PLR VICE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF PARTY NEWSPAPER EL RADICAL. MARTINEZ YARYES
WAS IMPRISONED JULY 9 PENDING RESOLUTION OF A SUIT FOR
DEFAMATION AND LIBEL BROUGHT AGAINST HIM BY GENERAL OTELLO
CARPINELLI YEGROS, COMMANDER OF THE SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION.
GENERAL CARPINELLI FILED SUIT FOR AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED
IN EL RADICAL IN LATE JUNE ENTITLED "SOLDIERS BURN AND
DESTROY FARMERS' HOUSES: GENERAL CARPINELLI IN ACTION
ONCE AGAIN". THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT A MOTION BY
MARTINEZ YARYES' LAWYERS FOR HIS RELEASE WILL BE GRANTED
SHORTLY, SINCE UNDER PARAGUAYAN LAW PARTIES TO LIBEL
SUITS CANNOT BE ARRESTED UNLESS THERE IS EVIDENCE OF
INTENT TO FLEE.

2. MARTINEZ YARYES IS THE SECOND DIRECTOR OF THE PLR
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER TO BE IMPRISONED IN RECENT MONTHS.
HOWEVER, HIS ARREST IS MUCH MORE UPSETTING TO RADICAL
LIBERALS THAN THAT OF PREVIOUS EL RADICAL DIRECTOR RANULFO
GILL, WHO THE RADICAL LIBERALS ADMIT WAS GUILTY OF
FALSIFYING LEGAL DOCUMENTS FOR PERSONAL GAIN. IN CONTRAST
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TO GILL, MARTINEZ YARYES IS A WELL-KNOWN SURGEON WITH A

RELATIVELY UNBLEMISHED REPUTATION FOR PERSONAL HONESTY.

3. THIS MOST RECENT MOVE AGAINST THE RADICAL LIBERALS IS
ALMOST CERTAINLY DIRECTED AT PLR PRESIDENT DOMINGO LAINO
(A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF MARTINEZ YARYES) WHOM THE GOP
REGARDS AS A DANGEROUS LEFTIST. AS ONE COLORADO NATIONAL
DEPUTY TOLD EMBOFFS, PRESIDENT STROESSNER (WHOSE HOBBY IS
CHESS) IS BIDDING HIS TIME BY CAPTURING HIS OPPONENT'S
PIECES, WITH THE EVENTUAL AIM OF CHECKMATING LAINO.
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